

The
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.
NOBISCUM
CHRISTUS STATE.

School Record.

1924-25.

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 19.

DECEMBER, 1924.

EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

SUB-EDITOR—MISS FURNESS.

COMMITTEE—M. SHERWOOD, B. WELLS, L. SMITH,
LESTER, PARTRIDGE i, HODGKINSON i.

Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

I must first of all congratulate those of you who were successful at the Oxford Examinations, and especially those who gained honours and distinctions. Though the number of passes was not so large as one could wish, this was to some extent atoned for by the number of distinctions, which was greater than usual.

I should like to encourage all those in the middle and lower school to be ambitious, and to set to work with the determination to get their names also upon the Honours Board. I hope you realise that the aim and object of the school is to help you to grow into the very best of which you are capable—to make you fine athletes, fine scholars, fine men and women, straight and strong in every sense.

The success of the school teams in hockey and football has been very gratifying, and I do not think we have ever had better teams representing the School.

Brains and games do not by any means always go together, but when they do you get really good play. I pay the forwards of the girls' hockey team the compliment of thinking that their successful combination has something to do with this; not forgetting that they also owe much to the skill and untiring effort of their centre-half.

I have much enjoyed watching the boys' matches. The team has greatly improved in the passing game, and the combination in the match at Evesham was at times excellent. In this case, also, it has been a great thing to have strong and skilful players at centre-half and centre-forward. I have liked the way in which you go hard for the ball. There is no doubt it is the game to play.

There are no games like school games, so fast and clean, and such pure sport. Can you wonder that, when watching you, the old player finds it hard not to indulge in vain regrets, and wish that on a Wednesday afternoon he might be allowed, just for one short hour, to drop the burden of some thirty years, and join the game again? A very vain regret, yet the fact that it is often present will be enough to show you that your headmaster has a very soft spot in his heart for all your games; and, though his part is now confined to the touch-line and an occasional "Well played!" he still claims the privilege of sharing in your triumphs, and of encouraging and sympathising with you in defeat.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

School Year, 1924-25.

AUTUMN TERM: September 18—December 19.

Half Term: Monday, November 3.

SPRING TERM: January 19—April 7.

Half Term: Monday, March 2.

SUMMER TERM: April 29—July 28.

Half Term: June 1 and 2 (Whit Monday and Tuesday).

The School Register.

Valete.

*Griffiths, M. E. R. (VI), 1922-24.	Preece, M. M. (IVa), 1923-24.
Hemming, J. J. (Va), 1919-24.	Sisam, D. G. L. (IVa), 1915-24.
*Shrimpton, J. B. W. (Va), 1919-24.	Swainston, D. S. (IVa), 1921-24.
Sisam, W. M. (Va), 1915-24.	Johnson, L. E. (IVb), 1920-24.
*Skinner, E. (Va), 1919-24.	Morgan, H. M. P. (IVb), 1916-24.
Baylis, K. M. (Vb), 1919-24.	Spencer, B. W. (IVb), 1917-24.
Edkins, P. G. (Vb), 1918-24.	Winnett, C. W. (IIIa), 1921-24.
Gibbs, G. W. (Vb), 1920-24.	Baseley, N. (IIIb), 1920-24.
Criddle, I. M. (IVa), 1919-24.	Spencer, M. A. (II), 1921-24.
Hemming, E. (IVa), 1921-24.	Spencer, H. H. (Ia), 1921-24.

*Prefect.

Salvete.

Allen, D. S. (IIIa).	Sherwood, K. E. A. (IIIb).
Duxbury, J. B. (IIIa).	Sutton, C. P. (IIIb).
Kilby, C. A. M. (IIIa).	Hodgkinson, P. (II).
Savage, I. M. (IIIa).	Greenhill, B. (Ia).
Sherwood, E. W. (IIIa).	Greenhill, E. M. (Ib).
Selman, D. G. (IIIb).	Keniston, H. G. (Ib).
Sheppard, E. G. (IIIb).	†Steele, G. (Ib).

† Admitted May, 1924.

Old Scholars' Prizes.

The Annual Summer Re-union of the Guild, held at the School on Saturday, July 26th, was favoured with a fine afternoon, and there was a large gathering. As usual, a tennis tournament was arranged. This was successfully carried through, four courts being necessary in order to complete it before the light failed. During the tea interval the business part of the meeting was transacted. The three retiring members of the committee—Misses M. Hall and K. Perks, and Mr. A. Finnemore—were unanimously re-elected. The question of a dance during the winter was brought up, but, although there was considerable discussion, the meeting did not express any definite wish. A pleasant afternoon closed with the presentation by Mrs. Wells of the prizes for the tennis tournament.

The day on which the Old Scholars were to meet the School eleven at cricket proved, unfortunately, to be one of the many wet ones which the summer of 1924 served out to us, and consequently the match had to be scratched.

It has been arranged for the annual winter gathering to take place on Saturday, December 20th, in the School. A varied programme of games, dancing, and music has been arranged, and the Committee hope for a large assembly of past scholars, so as to make the evening a thorough success. So, roll up, Old Scholars! Back up your Committee! You will be assured of an enjoyable evening.

A small sub-committee has been formed to promote an Old Scholars' Dance, which it is proposed to hold in the Town Hall on Friday, January 9th, 1925. Mr. E. Bowen is the Secretary, and application for tickets (price 3s. 6d.) should be made to him.

A word in reference to this dance. On the last occasion a very poor response was made by Old Scholars, and the Committee found itself faced with a rather heavy debt. There is no need for a repetition of this. Previous dances have always been an immense success as social gatherings, and have also paid their way. It would be a great pity if these winter functions had to be discontinued through lack of support. The Committee is determined that this dance shall be successful, and no effort is being spared.

And one last word about the dance. It has been decided that ordinary dress, and not evening dress, shall be worn on this occasion.

We should like once more to urge Old Scholars to communicate to the Editor any items of news in connection with themselves. Those who were at school with them are very keen to know all such news, and the *RECORD*, which is read by so many Old Scholars, is frequently the only medium for conveying these little items. We do our best and collect as much as we can, but you can help us considerably by laying aside for the moment that natural modesty and telling us about yourselves, either in person or through the post.

"Inspectoritis."

A.G.S. has experienced a severe attack of "Inspectoritis" this term. The epidemic, which is extremely infectious, was the more serious from the fact that alarming complications occurred, and the School was prostrate for the space of a week. Nightmare, general feverishness, palpitations, chronic neurasthenia, and paralysis of the larynx are the chief symptoms diagnosed. Unfortunately, the malady was accompanied by "Mopmania," which made drastic precautions necessary.

Inspectors, at the best of times, do not tend to improve the general wretchedness of our earthly existence. But, when they choose to come at Mop time, there is indeed cause for righteous indignation. This year the "ginger-snap" was not quite as appetising as usual, and the "horses" and "motors" did not arouse the same delight. There was a general feeling of depression, doubtless occasioned partly by the uneasy recollections of home work that simply had to be done. Then, naturally, it poured with rain, and most people ended their Mop night by picking soddened bits of confetti off their clothes and extracting sticky messes from their mackintosh pockets.

I had no sooner settled comfortably in bed than I found myself back at the Mop once again. Strange to say, I had purchased one of those annoying, small, white balls suspended on elastic; and seemed to be making use of the novelty with much vigour and more enjoyment. All at once I bumped into a severe-looking old gentleman, whose hat, knocked off in the crush, revealed a tantalising bald

patch on the top of his head. I yielded to temptation, and the ball gave a hard smack as it came into contact with the target. The victim turned on me with a look of apoplectic fury; and then the scene changed, and I seemed to be in the form room at school. It was evidently the following morning, and we were fearfully awaiting the inspectors. At length the door opened and, to my horror, who should walk in but he of the bald head, the victim of my previous night's escapade? Wrathfully he stalked up to me, and, grasping my quaking shoulders, boomed, "I'll teach you to use His Majesty's officials with respect! You come along with me and report yourself to the Warwickshire Education Committee——!" I awoke with beads of perspiration on my brow. Thank goodness it was only a dream!

Everyone got to school early that morning. Of course, it would never do to be late, and besides, it was necessary to erase sundry original illustrations which ever adorn the pages of our books.

At last the ordeal had arrived, and there was a real, live, inspector sitting in front of us. This is the kind of dialogue which ensued: "Why do you dislike Napoleon?"—"Because he divorced Josephine." "Why did he divorce Josephine?"—"Because he wished to marry Marie Louise of Austria." "Why did he wish to do that?" Oh, dear! why ever did he marry her? Surely P—— has forgotten to ring the bell. I wish to goodness Napoleon had remained a bachelor!

Then follows Latin. Naturally, every word you have ever learned slips from your memory. The nominatives and accusatives seem annoyingly scarce; the verbs wander off in some queer way into secluded subordinate clauses; the gerundives perform puzzling antics on their own; and all the time you are hoping against hope that the inspector won't ask you to decline "*domus*," or look back at your last week's exercise.

By the time it comes to English you are breathing a little more freely. After all, you know quite a lot about the development of the novel, and it isn't very likely he will ask you any spelling or dates. All goes well. I am asked a question, but, strange as it may seem, I know the answer and reply with confidence. I feel quite pleased with myself. Surely *that* ought to make an impression! "I didn't catch a word *that girl* said" comes a voice from the rear. Alas, for my optimism. It is extremely mortifying to have performed in vain; and besides, I don't particularly like being alluded

to as "that girl"—it isn't exactly respectful. Moreover, the inspector betakes himself to the far side of the room, and desires me to repeat my answer a little louder. Oh, heavens! Whatever had I said? What was the question? What was the lesson about? My mind is a blank. There is an uneasy silence, and meanwhile the inspector stands impatiently near the paper basket glaring stonily at my ineffective squirms.

However, it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and a half-holiday on Friday went far to reviving our spirits and promoting a general convalescence.

M. S.

Wembley.

In London-town did men propose
A wondrous pleasure-house to build,
Where Thames, that muddy river, flows,
Past dingy houses, rows on rows,
Down to a dirty sea.
So twice five miles of useful ground,
With hammer, saw, and axe resound;
And gardens wrought with superficial care,
Where rustles many an artificial tree.
Upon what once was desolate and bare,
Arise in glory for the world to see.
The grandstand of the vast arena,
Now silent, once resounded through,
And, standing with subdued demeanour,
Awaits in silence echoes new;
Here was the place, and here the conflict, too,
Where Aston Villa met their Waterloo.
A cowboy and a cowgirl fair,
'Twas no vision that I saw;
She was a bold Canadian maid,
And on her "bronk" full long she stayed,
While greenhorns bit the dust before
They scarce had left the arena floor.
And all who have the trials endured
Of tripping to that city fair.
All those should cry, "Beware! Beware!"
The way is long, the hours are short,
One needs a fortnight all to see;
But, thank the Lord, 'tis not the last,
The only Wembley there will be.

A. J. P.

Notes and News.

The Head Girl and Head Boy of the School this year are, respectively, J. Wells and F. Bunting.

The " Sides " captains are:—Brownies, M. Thomas and Perkins; Jackals, B. Thomas and Bunting; Tomtits, J. Wells and Partridge i.

Society secretaries for this year are as follows:—Debating, Lester; Musical, D. Balmforth; Stamp, Partridge i.; Wireless, Hodgkinson i.

Games secretaries are:—Hockey, M. Sherwood; Football, Gothard.

Mr. Hutton joined the staff at the beginning of the present term. A hearty welcome is extended to him by all.

The cricket bat, presented to the boy who had shown the greatest progress in the game during the season, was handed to Shrimpton.

The racket, presented for similar progress in tennis, went to M. Sherwood.

A Rummage Sale, organised by Miss Deans, and held in the Church House on Friday, November 7th, was a great success, a profit of £11 7s. 8d. being realised.

A full Board of Education inspection of the School took place on October 8th, 9th, and 10th. We were visited by three inspectors—Miss Archibald, Mr. Hankin, and Mr. McMichael. The School was dismissed at mid-day on the 10th.

Best thanks to Mrs. G. Thomas for the kind gift of a dinner-waggon.

Congratulations to E. Bowen on gaining First Class Honours in his B.Sc. (Birmingham) in June.

The Mirror.

(Being extracts from an old manuscript of the twentieth century, circ. 1924, with comments thereon.)

..... And it was decreed that there be placed within a mirror, before which should pass each several one from the greatest to the least. Now the said mirror did possess this wonderful property that, when looking therein, one saw oneself as one appeared unto the world, bristling with idiosyncracies. 'Twas not uncommon for one standing before it to fail to recognise one's image; yet most ordinarily a likeness there was, though this did appear somewhat distorted and

(From this point the manuscript is for a page and a half so disfigured with blots that a connected rescript is utterly impossible. Yet, from occasional words and phrases that are decipherable, some idea of its contents may be gathered.)

..... dmaster in aborat . y sten(t)orian
 account-books armful of b(o)oks
 followed by ... strolls leisurely tunic
 hurriedly with compasses armed
 etc., etc.

This progress of the great completed, in turn follow they whom age or assiduous labour has raised above their fellows. And first, a maid demure of mien, serious of countenance, glides into view with noiseless motion, with many a backward longing look at the volumes from which she has been so rudely torn. Close behind a youth bespectacled, bearing on his shoulders the load of the world's troubles, and in his hand a coil of wire and a beaker. Heavily does he tread. Was e'er so much knowledge entrusted to one mortal? Of still more unhurried gait, see one towering aloft, disdain and enui in every feature. With what tiny effort does one become wise! Scarce has he taken his stand before the mirror when there bustles forward, shoulder foremost, one like a veritable hurricane: in each hand a ponderous tome, receiving simultaneous attention, their pages flying over with lightning speed, what time her brow grows grim with concentrated effort. To her succeeds a youth, hardly dragging about his weary frame, girt with a dictionary and bell. Seating himself, he emits from his eyes sparkles of humorous appreciation, as EpigrammaticusDifficultiusDryasdustius(A) lives again for him. What portly form is this advancing, armed with board and pencil, which ever and anon she lays

A. Apparently some classical writer, with whose works we at the present time are not acquainted.

aside to seize a tray laden with two cups? (B) Spectacles again dash into view, borne by one bursting with self-confidence, and radiating cheerful sagacity. How she eats her way (C) through the numerous volumes, which (whisper this) it is often beyond her power to count! A demure figure passes ploddingly on, struggling with isothermic representations; silent she comes, silent she goes.

A brief pause. Then advances another band, and in the van a tiny youth with a viol, trembling ever with apprehension as he strives to read something he has himself written. (D) Hardly has he reached the mirror when he is jostled forward by a very Atalanta, upon whose countenance cheeriness and seriousness of purpose alternate. Seating herself upon a stool sweet strains (E) . . . (Hiatus in manuscript) close attendance, hastening onward, her fragile frame beneath abundant curls (F), her twinkling eagle eye betraying a humorous sapience. O'ertopping her by head and shoulder comes a slim youth, dribbling (G) forward a ball which obeys his every touch; with high-pitched cachinnations he spurns the books that strew his path—"one needs not books to live." Of equal height and grace is she who follows, moving sedately on, an album 'neath her arm. (H) Next

bulk and height combined
Present themselves, mounted on wheels on high,
And hands in gauntlets swathed. (J)

She who comes next is decked in dainty attire; with restless eye she surveys those who go before and come after; reluctant to depart, long would she gaze upon herself, were she not driven away by one who, casting aside the pen which he has been laboriously wielding, directs with might and main a ball through an imaginary goal. (K) Then comes forward one of studious cast of countenance, voiceless, alas (L); though he strains his lungs to utter a sound. But not

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- B. This, we must confess, puzzles us. Why cups? And why two?
 - C. A metaphor from the caterpillar, we think.
 - D. Clearly illegible handwriting is a failing not confined to our own times.
 - E. Some form of music, we presume; but whether vocal or instrumental it is impossible to conjecture.
 - F. Long or short, we wonder.
 - G. A technical term used in connection with a ball game then very popular.
 - H. Obscure; there are so many uses for albums.
 - J. Is this another reference to the game mentioned in Note G?
 - K. A piece of apparatus used in the same game.
 - L. Probably exaggerated.

silent his successors, both of a size, vying in a duel of words; yet (wonderful to relate) she whose very name (M) suggests a victory here is robbed of the palm by her companion's ready gift of repartee. Now surely she who approaches, happy nymph, is the Spirit of Health and Gaiety. Strive not to hurry her, ye, who follow; "such bulk cannot be moved by mortal hands." A mist bedims the mirror, yet occasional glimpses can be obtained. There follows one, fair-haired, dreaming his way along. Scarcely does he prop open his eyes to see his image. A youth, with eyes mischievous, who trails his spidery pen across the page of a book he carries, gives place to another of serious demeanour, bearing in his hand a notice neatly writ, what time he listens as if attentive to some message from afar. (N) Then three dim forms, one youth, two maids; all are still heated, and bear the signs of travel. On each brow does seriousness sit, and keen endeavour. One has a book replete with script of faultless execution; another

(Here, unfortunately, the lower half of the page is torn away. Further extracts must be held over till our next number.)

Scouts' Concert.

Given in the School, December 11th and 12th.

PROGRAMME.

1. Pianoforte Trio
M. Paice, S. Hodgkinson, N. Derrick.

2. Skipping Exercises
Twelve Junior Girls.

3. "Tom the Piper's Son" ... Comedy by Marcus Woodward.
[SCENE: A woodland glade. TIME: A combination of the
Middle Ages, when Thomas the Piper invented the song
"Tom, the Piper's Son," and the twentieth century.]

CHARACTERS:

Tom the Piper	... Earp	Patrol Leader Jack	... Perkins
Tom's Son	... Hodgkinson	Widow Martha	... B. Johnson
Farmer Giles	... Partridge i.	Patrol of Five Scouts

A Pig.

4. Dance Minuet.
5. "Why?"

CHARACTERS:

Betty, a superior schoolgirl	B. Lane.
Dickie, a small boy	Dales.

6. Domestic Jazz Band
The Scouts.

INTERVAL.

M. It is regrettable that we have no means of ascertaining this name.

N. Very obscure.

7. Piano Solo ...
Smith i.
8. Scout Play. ... "Redeeming their Characters" ...
CHARACTERS :
Fred Foster ... Andrews Farmer Woods ... Buggins
Bob Henderson ... Brewer Bill Eames ... Smith i.
Tom Smith ... Scriven A Man ... Harwood
Sam Manns ... Wainwright Scoutmaster ... Finnemore.
Tim Woods ... Edkins
Scouts.
9. Dance ... Gavotte.
10. "Professor Puzzlelem" ...
(Being the modern method of teaching Arithmetic.)
Professor Puzzlelem ... Lester.
11. Violin Solo ...
Wainwright.
12. Sketch ... "Waiting for the 'Bus" ... G. Jennings.
CHARACTERS :
A Lady ... D. Balmforth A. Mother ... I. Dowdeswell
A Flapper ... M. Lane Children } ... M. Lane
First Shopper ... B. Wells Old Gentleman ... Gothard
Second Shopper ... E. Lane A Solenn Woman G. Chattaway
First Office Girl...G. Bishop A Policeman ... Bunting
Second Office Girl G. Thomas

Rummage Thrills.

The church clock struck six. With a look of grim determination on his face the valiant doorkeeper approached the object of his care, followed by the obviously anxious "money collector." A harsh grating sound, screams of laughter, and a rush announced that the door was open.

In less time than it takes to tell the doorway was packed with yelling, laughing, jostling women, and the noise which ensued baffles all description. Still, however, above all the hubbub rose the loud though somewhat breathless entreaties of the doorkeeper, "One at a time, please! One at a time!" Interested by the struggles of the women and the strenuous exertions of those at the door, I was taken unawares, and was soon—well, entirely surrounded is a mild way of putting it—by women, and, in spite of my agonised entreaties of "excuse me, please!" I was unable to move. In vain did my poor partner—who, pinned between the wall and a galvanised bath, was valiantly struggling with the on-rushing crowd—cast appealing glances in my direction. I am sure I answered them with glances quite as touching, but as for being able to reach her—that was out of the question!

After my feet had provided a foot stool for everyone within reasonable reach of them, and I had been stabbed in the back and hit on the head in a most disconcerting fashion, I was at length able to reach my partner, who was bravely wrestling with an unsteady bath, jostling women, scattered rummage, and small change. At first, owing to my exhausting experience, I was of little use, but leaned against the wall, panting. Then it was that I heard agonised shrieks coming from the other end of the room, and, though I did not pay much attention to them at the time, I heard afterwards that a table had been pushed over. Personally, I consider that a mild occurrence in comparison with my experiences.

When I had recovered my breath and voice I began to sell with energy, pointing out with surprising eloquence the respective values of green and red ties, and leather cases for men's brushes. Elated with the success of my persuasive powers I forgot everything—until I became aware that my legs were pinched between a bench against the wall and one which eager buyers were pushing towards the wall. Hastily thrusting a baby's bonnet into the hands of a prospective buyer, and exclaiming hurriedly that it was only a penny and well worth the money, I proceeded to extricate myself—a process I found rather painful. Another time, in my zeal, as I lifted a heated face from the bath and clutched in my hand the last of a set of dinner mats, my head came into sharp contact with a bench of shoes that was just being lifted over. However, I survived the shock, and helped my heroic partner to sell everything in our bath—this only being effected after we had sold a blue blouse with white spots on it, the leather cases before mentioned, and a short piece of brass tubing for a penny!

I am convinced that it is utterly impossible to sell rummage in a dignified and impressive manner. Swamped with buyers eagerly asking for blouses, dresses, ties, shoes, harassed by the fact that you have to give elevenpence change in pennies and halfpennies, you have at the same time to encourage some people to buy, and, while keeping others from misplacing the rummage that is in the bath, to dive for that which is unavoidably scattered. After half-an-hour of the most exciting struggle, the crowd gradually dispersed, and we were left with an empty bath and a full purse. And what is perhaps most wonderful of all, we had gained in half-an-hour a thrilling experience, a lesson in selling, and £11 7s. 8d.!!!

M. T.

Olla Podrida.

The metamorphosis of Switzerland has clearly been very rapid, as, according to M. L., the beasts of burden there in Cæsar's time were camels.

We understand that a certain member of the VIth keeps his authorities in his "top storey."

Teacher: "The sulphur vapour then enters a large brick chamber and condenses on the walls . . ."

Pupil (C.A.): "Wouldn't it make a mess of the wall-paper, sir?"

Who was the member of VA. who tried to show a Junior how to keep her feet together when running?

M. T., disgusted at muddy boots after hockey, proposes to adopt sou'-westers. Does she also propose to play on her head?

C.A. informs us that the most effective remedy for a fainting fit, especially in the case of a lady, is the aroma of a horse's hoof.

Teacher: "Why were you away from school yesterday?"

Pupil (L. H.): "Because on Tuesday, Miss —, I missed the Vicar and caught a cold."

Is the hockey secretary so hard up for matches that she must resort to the expedient of requesting fixtures from her own team?

At last we understand why the distracted and nerve-racked Ceres searched so diligently for her daughter. The daughter's name, according to a member of IVB., was Phosphorine.

Who is the Rip Van Winkle who, waking up in Autumn, 1924, and finding herself in charge of detention, entered in the book the date as 1920?

Immediately after a lengthy and laborious exposition of the functions of a clerk, the following dialogue occurred:

Teacher: "What is a clerk?"

Pupil (L. A.): "Someone who writes."

Teacher: "What does he write?"

L.A.: "Script."

Oxford Local Examinations.

The successes gained in the July examinations are as follows:—

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION:

Group ii. (Modern Studies).—J. W. Wells (distinction in history).

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION:

First Class Honours.—*A. J. Partridge (distinctions in English and Latin).

Second Class Honours.—M. Thomas (distinctions in English and History), *B. Wells (distinction in English).

Third Class Honours.—E. Lanc (distinction in English).

Passes.—I. Dowdeswell, L. Earp, H. K. Hunt, J. Shrimpton, E. Skinner.

*Obtained exemption from London Matriculation.

Royal Drawing Society Examinations.**ILLUSTRATING SYLLABUS EXAMINATION:**

D. Balmforth (First Class Honours in Division III., Second Class Honours in Division IV.).

The Debating Society.

So far, only one meeting of the Society has been held this term. On Monday, November 17th, Form VA. conducted the debate. Perkins proposed that "England should go dry." G. Chattaway seconded, and Buggins opposed the proposition. It is interesting to note that this is the second consecutive meeting at which the votes have been evenly divided; there were 18 votes for the proposition, and 18 against.

H. T. L. (HON. SEC.).

Musical Society.

SECRETARY—D. Balmforth.

The Musical Society is making good progress, and the numbers have increased since last year.

The first meeting of the term was held on October 25th, the programme for that evening consisting of selections

from the works of Weber. Guillaume read a most interesting paper, and Miss Bowen made a fuller appreciation of the great composer possible by her delightful rendering of "Softly Sighs the Voice of Evening," the great dramatic solo from "Der Freischütz."

At the second meeting of the term, on November 25th, Mr. Clifford Roberts, B.Mus., gave an admirable lecture on the instruments of the orchestra. Mr. Roberts treated his subjects so clearly and in such an interesting manner that the attention of the audience was held from the first to the last. Mr. Roberts could not but appeal to all his hearers, whether they practised instruments themselves or appreciated music as listeners-in.

Mr. Cook kindly lent the gramophone for illustration of the varying qualities of the different instruments which make up an orchestra. The final illustration was particularly appropriate, in that it not only showed us how all these instruments blend in a large work, but, being the overture to "Der Freischütz," formed a pleasant reminder of our last meeting.

If possible, the committee hope to arrange for another meeting before Christmas.

Postage Stamp Club.

SECRETARY—Partridge I.

Numerous meetings have been held since the beginning of term, and talks on various general matters in connection with stamp collecting have been given. Attention has been paid to the correct method of "sticking-in" stamps, to ensure that no damage is done to stamp or album if any moving or replacing becomes necessary.

One afternoon was devoted to the subject of perforation, distinctions being drawn between perforation and rouletting and notice being called to the many imperforate stamps produced in Europe during the war.

Members are urged to bring along to the meetings any notes or articles on stamps appearing in newspapers. It is also desirable that all those belonging to the club should make an effort to attend meetings regularly and punctually.

The Wireless Society.

SECRETARY—Hodgkinson i.

Owing to the visit of the inspectors to the school at the beginning of this term, the first meeting of the Wireless Society could not be held until October 21st, and up to the

present only three meetings have been held. At the first meeting the aims of the Society were discussed, and it was finally decided that the Society should gain a theoretical knowledge, and use this knowledge as far as possible in experimenting.

At the next meeting, on November 4th, Mr. Hall gave a very interesting lecture on the beginning of wireless. At the end of this meeting the Committee decided that this lecture should be continued by members of the Committee at the following meetings.

The third meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18th, when Lester gave an interesting lecture on "Detectors."

There are now thirty-one members in the Society, and these are all boys, although it is open to girls also.

H. H.

The Scouts.

For the first half of the term the Scouts have been occupied with their usual work and games. A new system of awarding marks to each patrol for smartness of appearance and success in competitive games has been started, the results up to the present being as follows:—Kangaroos, 41; Foxes, 53; Peewits, 56; Wood Pigeons, 61; Owls, 56; Peacocks, 49; Eagles, 70.

Since half-term we have been busy rehearsing for the entertainment. Several new members have joined, but there are still many boys who do not yet belong to the Troop.

H. T. L. (PATROL LEADER).

Football.

CAPTAIN—Bunting. SECRETARY—Gothard.

The School eleven has been very successful up to the present, having played five matches and won them all. A full fixture list has been arranged for this season, there being ten matches each term. At the beginning of the season a new arrangement of the team was tried, and this has proved most satisfactory. Perkins was moved to the centre-forward position, Bunting took his place at centre-half, and Rook ii., who had played inside left last season, was tried at left back. Partridge i. played inside left for the first match, but, owing to an injury to his ankle, his place has since been filled by Savage.

RESULTS (to date):

- v. Redditch S.S. (home), won 6—0.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home), won 9—3.
- v. Redditch S.S. (away), won 2—0.
- v. Studley F.C. (home), won 15—0.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), won 5—0.

The result at Evesham was most gratifying, as we have not defeated them on their own ground for some time. The goal scorers are:—Perkins 17, Bunting 6, Sisam 4, Savage 2, Edkins 1, Wainwright 1.

The following two "Sides" matches have been played:—

Brownies v. Tomtits, 9—5.

Jackals v. Brownies, 3—0.

Hockey.

CAPTAIN—J. Wells.

SECRETARY—M. Sherwood.

In spite of the loss of many of our prominent players, we have been, on the whole, quite successful this season. In place of M. Sisam, who left at the end of the summer term, J. Wells has been elected captain, and B. Thomas is vice-captain.

We have been unfortunate in regard to the fixtures this term, and have consequently only been able to have six matches altogether. The first eleven matches have been very exciting. We had a strenuous time at Studley College, the game being extremely fast. However, we retrieved our reputation at Evesham, after a hard game, defeating Prince Henry's Grammar School for the first time in the career of the school. According to a local paper the teams were evenly matched, but A.G.S. was quicker on the ball.

As a consequence of the drain upon last year's second eleven in filling up vacant positions in the first eleven, the second team has been drawn largely from the lower school, where much brilliant promise is shown.

RESULTS:

- FIRST XI. v. Redditch S.S. (home), won 10—0.
- v. Studley College (away), lost 2—4.
- v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), won 4—3.
- SECOND XI. v. Redditch 2nd XI. (away), won 5—0.
- v. Evesham 8nd XI. (home), lost 2—3.
- v. Bromsgrove 2nd XI. (away), draw 2—2.

Two " Sides " matches only have been played so far, the Tomtits being defeated by the Jackals, and the Brownies and Tomtits making a goal-less draw.

RESULTS :

Jackals v. Tomtits, 4—0.

Brownies v. Tomtits, 0—0.

M.S.

For the Juniors.

The Adventures of Jimmy the Rabbit.

Once upon a time—a long time ago—a little white rabbit lived with his granny in a nice little burrow. Every morning the little white rabbit, whose name was Jimmy, got up from his bed and put on his little bedroom slippers and dressing-gown, and went and made a cup of tea for his old granny.

One morning, after they had had breakfast, the white rabbit heard that there was a hunt for wild brown rabbits. The white bunny asked his granny if he might go and join the chase, and she said he might. As soon as the huntsmen saw the white rabbit they chased him and caught him, and next they took him to the king's palace and gave him to the princess.

The king made some of his men make a little basket, and put in it some fur and velvet, and place it in the princess's bedroom. The princess was called Peggy. She brought Jimmy down to the sitting-room in his little basket, which she put in front of the fire.

A few days passed like this. Then one night Jimmy wanted to go home. So he ran all the way, and his old granny was very pleased to see him, and you may be sure he is still living with his old granny. If you go and look for him I expect he will be able to tell you what happened to him better than I can.

JOSEPHINE LANE (AGE 8).

The Fairy School.

Once upon a time, in a field were a lot of mushrooms, and these were the fairies' houses. In the very middle were ten big ones close together, and this was the school. All the fairies in the field came to it, and it belonged to a doctor. He said, " Before anyone is taught it must be agreed that one out of forty shall be a doctor."

The fairies agreed, and the school started. But the fairies who were taught to be doctors had to pay more, and so they did not go. The doctor chose some more, and these did not attend. They kept on doing this until there were not any left. So he shut up the school, and the fairies had no school to go to. The fairy doctor would not open the school, as a punishment. He had plenty of work as a doctor, but the fairies never had a school.

P. HODGKINSON

What It Was Used For.

In a little cottage, about a mile from a great forest, lived a man and his wife and a daughter. They were very extravagant. One day the wife threw away an old hat, and a mother cat took it and made a cosy nest for her litters. When they grew bigger they left it. By luck, a mother rook picked it up, and took it to her nest in the top of the elms. They used it for a long time until they flew, and when the next autumn gale came it was blown down into the meadow, where an old mother cow ate it. So it helped to rear two sets of animals, and it did a very good service.

M. I.

Mr. M. G. Taphor's Speech-day Speech.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls: It being the aim of everyone to kill two birds with one stone, don't forget that one in the hand is worth two in the bush. If the riding is hard right up to the finish, don't miss getting there, because it's well to have a brush at the kill, and unless you blow your own trumpet, other people will play the tune for you till you'll be ready to retire!

Now, in exams., don't get the wind up when you find you are no match for the examiner. If he is bursting with rage don't lose your head, but stick to facts and strike a middle course, hitting the nail on the head, and not putting the cart before the horse. If you have smooth sailing, and find yourself on the right track, getting a bull every time, don't shake like an aspen, or burn your boats, or start talking through your hat, but lose yourself and forget that he may have a trap; then fly your kite to the last lap, giving him a rough time if he starts raising Cain.

If, on the other hand, you have a rough crossing, don't make a mare's nest by fishing or begging the point. Let well alone, and play second fiddle till he misses the point, then cut in and show him the way about; but if he discovers your game change your tactics, and clear out before he bowls you.

Then, when you are on your oars waiting for results, don't worry the life out of everybody, but give them a bit of peace; and when results do come, don't fox indifference, because it won't wash. If, by a fluke, you can rest on your laurels, remember that they won't be "evergreen," but accept them as stepping stones, and while the newness is still on peg away at making more.

Strike while the iron is hot; make sparks fly; then help your luck by keeping it up.

Don't lose time beating about the bush, but, without hedging, go straight at it, clear it, and, taking all before you, carry on, and graft your brain waves where they'll quickly shoot and bear good fruit.

The Library.

The following books have been added to the Reference Library this term:—"The Concise Oxford Dictionary" (Fowler), "Origin and Growth of Greater Britain" (Egerton), "The Expansion of Anglo-Saxon Nations" (Barnard), "Holy Roman Empire" (Bryce), "The Cambridge Modern History" (Vols. I. and II.), "A Short History of the British Commonwealth" (Ramsey Muir), "A Concise History of National Biography" (Sidney Lee), "The City State of the Greeks and Romans" (Warde Fowler), "A Short History of the British Commonwealth," Parts II. and III. (Ramsey Muir), "The Legacy of Rome" (Bailey), "English Costume" (Calthrop), "Human Geography" (Fairgrieve & Young), "Regional Geography" (Reynolds), "Seaways of the Empire" (Sargent), "Man and His Conquest of Nature" (Newbigin), "Commercial Geography" (Curr), "Man in Many Lands" (Lyde), "Surface of the Earth" (Pickles), and "Physical Geography" (Lake).

Marriages.

We have pleasure in recording the following weddings of Old Scholars:—

On June 18th, in New York City, U.S.A., Kathleen Mary Alison (scholar, 1913-19) to Carlton Elmore McMachin.

On August 21st, at Bidford-on-Avon, Ida Collins (scholar, 1912-18) to Percy J. Perks (scholar, 1912-13).

On September 3rd, at Arrow, Elsie May Brookes (scholar, 1914-20) to William Henry Smart.

On September 20th, at Henley-in-Arden, Frances Mildred Clarke (scholar 1913-17) to Archibald Bernard Lane.